

From: Niedermeyer, Franz
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 10:15am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case.

The settlement as written will not serve to curtail Microsoft's future anticompetitive behavior, and does even less (if anything) to punish Microsoft for its many past violations of antitrust law.

This proposed settlement will serve to encourage Microsoft to continue the illegally leveraged destruction of competition in new industry segments, as well as providing an incentive for other industries to engage in this type of behavior. I feel strongly that the computer industry would look vastly different and much improved today without the past decade of Microsoft's increasingly apparent anticompetitive actions. Americans would have a much larger variety of secure and useful software to choose from. All would be able to share information without the proprietary interfaces that effect a loss of control and ownership of one's own data.

Finally, I believe that as Microsoft grows through anticompetitive behavior, the risks to Americans of corporate failure in a firm of such unnatural size could readily cause serious harm to our economy and technological infrastructure.

Thank you,

Franz Niedermeyer